

Saturday Learning Club

Hosted by Broad Acres Elementary School



Project Goal

To provide one-on-one tutoring and breakfast to low-income children and children whose first language may not be English on Saturdays at Broad Acres Elementary School in Silver Spring.

Timeline for Planning

This organizer works at a County school so knows about curriculum planning. Thus planning time will vary depending on your background and time of year. It takes more time at the beginning of the school year, but once you get settled in it is just review.

How Many Volunteers?

Adult volunteers – 7 to 10, tutors – about 25 teenagers (middle and high school kids). SSL hours are available.

Time Commitment

About 3.5 hours for teenagers. Adults also do 8:30 to 8:50 in the morning plus the 3.5 hours.

Expenses

The big cost is rent of space, which in this case is the All Purpose Room. Volunteers provide supplies, and the school has provided construction paper, markers, and other supplies.

Publicity

Because they are a charity group focused on service, education, and humanism called Tzu Chi, they have members who learn about the program. Also, some information is sent to high schools where students can choose to help out and get SSL credit. Publicity to parents at the school is done by sending out flyers. Teachers and reading specialists also pre-select kids for the program if they seem to need additional help.

Challenges

- Planning the activities so that kids learn
- Recruiting a stable number of tutors who come in regularly
- Having an evaluation process
- Ensuring/encouraging students to show up – therefore recruiting more than need

Results

- Kids' math and reading skills are greatly improved.
- Kids get one on one attention from tutors
- Tutors also benefit because they come to appreciate their own teachers and parents more.
- Tutors recognize how lucky they are (in comparison to some of the disadvantaged kids).

Tips/Key Steps:

It's best to have an education background, such as reading and writing. It's good to know about curriculum planning.

Points of Interest

- > Worksheets and articles are available as teaching aids.

